

RESOLUTION ON POLICE PROTECTION

According to the State Department of Police reported crime in Newark during the first six months of 1979 increased 29% over the same period last year. The alarming increase in reported as well as unreported crime has brought injury to our citizens, the growth of fear the threatened exodus of citizens and business enterprises, the shrinking of our city's tax base and uncertainty about the future of Newark.

Believing that our city and its citizens must have a good future, members of the Newark Coalition for Neighborhoods and its affiliated neighborhood organizations have confronted the crime problem head on: we are demanding that the Mayor, the Director of Police and the whole City Administration adopt policies and programs which would result in the following:

- (1) An immediate increase in police protection in all of our neighborhoods with 24-hour foot and motor patrols capable of responding to calls in all neighborhoods within 5 minutes. Specifically we have recommended that in each police precinct the number of 24 hour police squad cars be increased from the present number of 6 to 10 with additional back-up personnel.
- (2) All future police be hired from among Newark residents only, reflect the ethnic make-up of our city and be assigned to work in neighborhoods where they live.
- (3) More police be deployed for patrol and motor squad duty in residential neighborhoods; police supervision be improved; and more police be employed if our recommended measures are insufficient to reduce substantially the present crime rate.
- (4) In cooperation with federal and state agencies and the Newark Housing Authority, means be found by which the residents of projects operated by the Authority be adequately protected by the employment, of a sufficient number of security guards and especially assigned police.
- (5) A program to be launched to clear up the areas of our neighborhoods--the hot spots--where dope is sold, prostitutes and pimps ply their trade and citizens are mugged. The Coalition's Safe Streets Committee has already furnished the Police Director with a list of 21 such "hot spots" and have recommended means of sweeping these areas.
- (6) The Police Department be decentralized by granting police Captains more program and decision-making powers regarding the dispatch of squad cars, meeting with citizen groups, etc.
- (7) Neighborhood organization be given more power to recommend and control the use of federal (LEAA) and state (SLEPA) anti-crime funds.
- (8) A thorough evaluation be made of the present computer system for classifying crimes and dispatching police cars, and of the present deficient system of citizens reporting crimes and calling police by phoning 911 or the respective precinct headquarters.

In monthly meetings with the Mayor and the Police Director since our demonstration in front of City Hall last July, we have pressed for the adoption of the above listed eight measures. We have evidence that the Police Department, with the cooperation of members of the Coalition and certain block organization, is now attempting to clean up some of the "hot spots" where drug sales, prostitution solicitation and various violent crimes are concentrated. We have been told that within the last month 20 policemen have been shifted from their former assignments to patrol duty. An evaluation of the present police response system is now under way and will not be completed for another six weeks. However, despite these positive developments, we are far from satisfied with the results of our meetings with the Mayor and Police Director. We see little evidence that the present administration in City Hall realizes the serious and harmful effects of crime on our fellow citizens and the future of Newark, and that the Mayor and the Police Director are moving with all deliberate speed to start needed programs to lessen the threats to the safety of our fellow citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the First Annual Convention of the Newark Coalition for Neighborhoods demand that the Mayor, the Police Director and other members of the City Administration concerned with the crime problem, consistent with the above eight demands put forth by the Coalition, take immediate steps:

- (1) To increase the police presence in neighborhood areas of the City by placing 10 operative squad cars in each precinct on a 24-hour basis capable of responding to calls in all neighborhoods within 5 minutes;
- (2) To employ all future police from among residents of Newark only, reflecting the ethnic make-up of our city and assigning them to neighborhoods where they live;
- (3) To increase deployment of police to increase the number of patrolmen on the streets, improve supervision of police and employ more police if our recommended measures are insufficient to decrease the rate of crime substantially;
- (4) To insure adequate protection to citizens living in the projects operated by the Newark Housing Authority;
- (5) To clean up the "hot spots" of crime speedily and keep them clean;
- (6) To decentralize the Police Department by granting greater powers to the police captains;
- (7) To give the neighborhoods organizations more power to recommend and control the use of federal (LEAA) and state (SLEPA) anti-crime funds;
- (8) To evaluate the computer system and the call-in system for the reporting of crime and the dispatching of squad cars.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

- (1) Future LEAA and SLEPA funds not be spent on police "hardware" (riot guns, mace, tanks, etc.) but on programs to strengthen block and community organization and rehabilitate youthful law breakers by the development of community facilities for their training and eventual job placement.
- (2) Neighborhood organizations and block clubs be encouraged to cooperate with police in deterring criminals and general community improvement, realizing however that citizens participation in street patrols and the CRISP program can never become adequate substitutes for needed police protection. Moreover, members of block organizations cannot be effective without the placement of an adequate number of police in each neighborhood and precinct.
- (3) Neighborhood organizations and block clubs should take the initiative in meeting with precinct captains and local patrolmen and arranging for regular monthly meetings with them.
- (4) We deplore the tendency of the Carter Administration and the Congress to slash federal funds for Newark and other metropolitan cities to the bone. These slashes result in diminished funds for education, retraining and senior citizen programs, recreation, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and police protection which meet elemental human needs. We consider adequate police protection for all of the citizens of Newark a most vital need.